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10/736,324

12/15/2003

Rick A. Lawson

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BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
PATENT DEPARTMENT
98 SAN JACINTO BLVD., SUITE 1500
AUSTIN, TX 78701-4039

EXAMINER

LIEU, JULIE BICHNGOC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2636

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/736,324

Applicant(s)

LAWSON ET AL.

Examiner

Julie Lieu

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 19-43 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 19-43 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's RCE filed October 26, 2005. Claims 1-2 and 33 have been amended.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, "said conditions and/or events" lacks antecedent basis. For examining purposes, singular form is presumed. Correction or clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-10, 24-26, 32, 33-35, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rein et al (US Patent No. 5,385,297).

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Claim 1:

Rein et al. (hereinafter as Rein) discloses a system for acquiring and transmitting data between two or more positions or locations relative to a detected condition, the system comprising:

- a. at least one detector 58 to detect a condition (temperature) mounted at a first location, the condition or event including two or more of the conditions and/or event selected from the group consisting of emission, temperatures, levels, and pressure. That is, zone sensor 58 including temperature sensor 64 and battery level sensor 63;
- b. at least one battery powered RF transmitter 65 mounted at the first location in electrical communication with the detector 58, the transmitter having transmittable ID code and wirelessly transmitting signals relative to the ID code, the detector, and the battery to a location remote from the first location (see col. 9, 2nd paragraph and last paragraph);
- c. a central processing 66 location remote from the first location for receiving and processing signals from the transmitter;
- d. at least a second transmitter 65 in communication with the central processing location, the second transmitter mounted at a second location capable of wirelessly transmitting signals relative to a condition or event detected at the second location to the central processing location.

The locations disclosed in Rein are within a building. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled to use the system disclosed in Rein in a plant as desired because it would

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be desirable to control the temperature in a plant to provide comfort to workers as it is in a building and/or to protect plant structure from being damage due to undesirable temperature.

Claim 2:

Rein further discloses that the system comprises at least one more detector and/or sensor to detect and/or sense a condition or event at third location.

Claim 3:

The system in Rein further comprises at least one transmitter in communication with the at least one more detector and/or sensor.

Claim 4:

The battery-powered transmitter in Rein is a spread spectrum transmitter. Col. 9, 2nd paragraph.

Claims 5 and 6:

Rein fails to specify that the one battery-powered radio frequency transmitter is a 900 megahertz spread spectrum transmitter. Nevertheless, the use of 900 MHz transmitter is conventional the art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art by the time the invention was made to have readily recognized using spread spectrum transmitters in the system Rein because it would minimize interference and increase reception quality.

The transmitter in Rein transmits on a predetermined time intervals. Col. 8, last paragraph.

Claims 7 and 8:

At least the one other transmitter in Rein comprises a spread spectrum RF transmitter.

Claims 9 and 10:

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Rein fails to specify that the one battery-powered radio frequency transmitter is a 900 megahertz spread spectrum transmitter. Nevertheless, the use of 900 MHz transmitter is conventional the art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art by the time the invention was made to have readily recognized using spread spectrum transmitters in the system Rein because it would minimize interference and increase reception quality.

Claim 22:

One of the detectors 58 in Rein detects temperature.

Claims 24 and 25:

The detector 58 in Rein detects a level (i.e. battery level).

Claim 26:

The system in Rein comprises at least a second detector in the building, the second detector in communication with at least one battery-powered radio frequency spread spectrum transmitter, the second detector detecting temperature.

Claim 32:

The at least one detector 58 in Rein is operable when a voltage from the battery is applied thereto, and the at least one battery powered radio frequency transmitter is a RF transmitter, the transmitter transmits signal on a predetermined time intervals, and transmits, when appropriate a low battery transmission signal. Rein fails to specify that the one battery-powered radio frequency transmitter is a 900 megahertz spread spectrum transmitter. Nevertheless, the use of 900 MHz transmitter is conventional the art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art by the time the invention was made to have readily recognized using spread spectrum

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transmitters in the system Rein because it would minimize interference and increase reception quality.

Claim 33:

Rein discloses battery powered system for monitoring and/or detecting events and/or conditions in a building, the system comprising:

- a. an exhaustible power source comprising a battery 59, the battery supplying a voltage;
- b. a detector 58 mounted at a first location in the building, detector 58 operable when voltage from the battery is applied thereto and monitoring and/or detecting an event and/or a condition in the plant relating to an enclosure and/or an enclosed material in the building;
- c. a first transmitter 65 mounted at the first location, the transmitter operable when voltage from the battery is applied thereto, the transmitter in electrical communication with the detector, the transmitter wirelessly transmitting signals relating to an event and/or condition monitored and/or detected by the detector from the first location in the building, and the transmitter wirelessly transmitting, when appropriate, a low battery signal;
- d. a second exhaustible power source comprising a battery, the battery supplying a voltage;
- e. a second transmitter mounted at a second location in the building remote from the first location, said transmitter operable when a voltage is applied thereto by the second battery, the transmitter wirelessly transmitting signals relating to a monitored and/or

detected event and/or condition in the building, and said transmitter wirelessly transmitting, when appropriate, a low battery signal; and

f. a central processing location 66 remote from the first and second plant locations for receiving the signals from said first and second transmitters.

The locations disclosed in Rein are within a building. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled to use the system disclosed in Rein in a plant as desired because it would be desirable to control the temperature in a plant to provide comfort to workers as it is in a building and/or to protect plant structure from being damage due to undesirable temperature.

Claim 36:

The monitored and/or detected event and/or condition disclosed in Rein relates to an enclosure, which is the building and/or room.

Claim 37:

The monitored and/or detected event and/or condition disclosed in Rein relates to an enclosed material which is the building and/or room.

Claim 41:

The detector in Rein monitors and/or detects more than one event and/or condition (temperature and battery level).

5. Claims 19-23, 27-31, 34, 35, and 38-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rein et al (US Patent No. 5,385,297) in view of Lloyd et al. (US patent No. 5,950,150)

Claims 19-23, 27-31, 34, 35, and 38-43:

Rein fails to disclose detecting different conditions related to emissions, pressure, a valve, liquid levels, or a pipe. Nonetheless, a skilled artisan would have readily recognized modifying the system to use it in a building or plant to monitor different building/plant conditions and events to insure safety of the building's occupants such as that taught in Lloyd et al. (hereinafter as Lloyd). Lloyd teaches monitoring and reporting different hazardous conditions in a building and reporting the detected conditions to a remote monitoring center. In light of this teaching, one skilled in the art would have readily recognized combining the Rein and Lloyd systems because it would provide comfort control and safety system to occupants in a building.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie Lieu whose telephone number is 571-272-2978. The examiner can normally be reached on MaxiFlex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Lieu', with a stylized, flowing script.

Julie Lieu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2636

Jan. 06, 06